

• Applicant: Firooz RASOULI
• Application Serial No. 09/873,476
Filed: June 4, 2001
Date: May 24, 2004

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2004, Applicant has canceled claim 1 and added claim 42; all claims previously dependent directly on claim 1 have been amended to be dependent on claim 42. Further, Applicant has amended claims 7, 21, 24 and 41 to better define the present invention. Further prosecution of the present application and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a virtual reality touching device in which substantially identical equipment is provided to two separated users such that by using their respective devices the users can virtually shake hands or provide each other with tactile sensations that are akin to actual touching.

The Office Action has rejected claims 7 and 21 under 35 USC section 112 for having material without sufficient antecedent basis. Applicant has amended the claims so that all elements therein now show sufficient antecedent basis.

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-10, 24-26, 28-30, 32-34 and 37 under 35 USC section 102(b) as being anticipated by Lander et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,984,880). Lander et al. teaches a control over tactile feedback device, force-feedback device, or a combination thereof comprising a processing device and a networking means. The device includes a tactile output system that selects pre-recorded materials, providing tactile information, in response to sensor input. Further, biofeedback sensors supply tactile/force-feedback system with additional information. Also dermatologically

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compatible material is provided for combining with tactile feedback devices and force-feedback devices. Lander et al. teaches the use of one type of device for presentation of initial information that is transmitted to another type of device that presents the information to another user. The device of Lander et al. is designed to transmit data in a single direction, as opposed to the device of the present invention which permits two or more users to tactilely communicate with one another, such as with a handshake.

With respect to claims 1 and 24, as presently claimed, the present invention teaches a device that permits two users to have substantially identical equipment, both tactile determination, broadcast and receiving units as well as one or more computing units, such that the users can feel each other as if they were touching. In sharp contrast, Lander et al. provides one type of device at each end of the terminals of the system. Lander et al. is not designed to permit two or more persons to touch, instead it permits one person to present tactile information to another.

Claims 2-10, 25-26, 28-30, 32-34 and 37 are all dependent on either claims 1 or 24, adding limitations thereto. As such those claims, as a result of the amendments to claims 1 and 24, are not taught by Landers et al.

With respect to claim 41, which is briefly mentioned in the Office Action, the method as now amended, shows the use of more than one sensor, broadcast and receiving device, which is not taught by Lander et al. It is respectfully submitted that Lander et al. does not teach the method as now claimed in Claim 41.

The Office Action has rejected claims 11-23, 27, 31, 35-36 and 38-40 under 35 USC section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lander et al. in view of Tremblay et al.

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(U.S. Patent No, 6,424,333). Applicant's comments above with respect to Lander et al. show that device taught by Lander et al. is not capable of performing the functions of the present invention. The addition of the teachings of Tremblay et al., which deal with various aspects of sensing body sensations (such as roughness and hardness) do not provide those elements missing in the teachings of Lander et al. such as to make the device of the present invention, as now claimed, obvious. The Office Action notes, with respect to claims 18, 19 and 31 that a receiver is a certain shape, clearly showing the combination recited does not teach a device having similarly shaped or configured devices for both stations in the system. The discussion concerning the remaining claims discuss the addition of limitations which do not overcome the differences between the present invention and the device taught by Lander et al. or Lander et al. in combination with Tremblay et al. It is respectfully submitted that the claims as amended are not taught by any of the cited references.

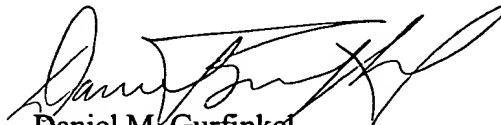
No fees or petitions are believed to be necessary. However, should any fee be needed, please charge our Deposit Account No. 23-0920, and deem this paper to be the required petition.

Applicant hereby respectfully requests reconsideration and continued examination. A sincere effort has been made to overcome the Action's rejections and to place the application in allowable condition. Applicant invites the Examiner to call Applicant's attorney to discuss any aspects of the invention that the Examiner may feel are not clear or which may require further discussion.

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In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is believed that the subject application is now in condition for allowance, and an early Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



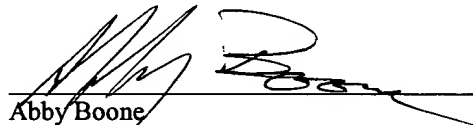
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May 24, 2004

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Abby Boone

May 24, 2004
DATE